

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 AF-08 SAB-01

SCCT-01 AID-05 ACDA-07 SSO-00 /116 W

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R 070100Z JUL 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1097

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR CH UG IS HK

SUBJECT: HONG KONG COMMUNIST PRESS DENOUNCES ISRAELI RESCUE
OF HOSTAGES IN UGANDA

1. ALTHOUGH NCNA HAS CARRIED TWO NEWS ITEMS ON THE ATTEMPTED
COUP IN THE SUDAN, PRC DOMESTIC MEDIA ORGANS HAVE YET TO MENTION
THE ISRAELI RESCUE OF HOSTAGES HELD BY PALESTINIAN HIJACKERS
IN UGANDA. PRC-OWNED NEWSPAPER IN HONG KONG, HOWEVER, HAVE DE-
VOTED CONSIDERABLE SPACE TO FOREIGN WIRE SERVICE REPORTS OF
EVENTS IN UGANDA AS WELL AS THE UGANDAN AND AFRICAN REACTIONS
TO THE ISRAELI RESCUE OF THE HOSTAGES.

2. A JULY 6 COMMENTARY IN THE PRC-OWNED WEN WEI PAO HAS SHARPLY
DENOUNCED THE ISRAELI ACTION AS AN "ACT OF AGGRESSION". IT
NOTES THAT THE ISRAELI ACTION RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF UGANDAN
SOLIDERS AND DESTRUCTION OF MORE THAN TEN PLANES AT THE AIRFIELD
AND ASSERTS THAT SUCH ACTION WILL CERTAINLY GIVE RISE TO
WIDESPREAD CRITICISM.

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3. THE COMMENTARY MAINTAINS THAT THE WORLD'S REVOLUTIONARY PEOPLES SUPPORT RESTORATION OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE'S RIGHTS TO THEIR HOMELAND, BUT IT CAREFULLY REFRAINS FROM CONDONING THE HIJACKING, POINTEDLY NOTING THAT PEOPLE DO NOT CONSIDER THIS TYPE OF "STRUGGLE" WORTHY OF SUPPORT. AT THE SAME TIME, IT REJECTS ISRAELI CONTENTIONS THAT UGANDAN AUTHORITIES WERE ASSISTING THE HIJACKING AND NOTES UGANDAN ASSERTIONS OF CONCERN FOR THE SAFETY OF THE HOSTAGES. MAINTAININGTHATEACH COUNTRY HAS THE RIGHT TO HANDLE HIJACKERS IN ITS OWN WAY, THE COMMENTRAY DENOUNCES THE ISREALI ASSERTION THAT THE ACTION WAS ONE OF "REASONABLE AGGRESSION" AS "PIRATE'S LOGIC". IF SUCH LOGIC WERE ACCEPTED, THE COMMENTARY ADDS, THEN ANY COUNTRY INVOLVED IN HIJACKING COULD BE SUBJECT TO A MILITARY ATTACK.

4. THE COMMENTARY CONCLUDES BY RAISING THE SPECTRE OF THE SUPERPOWERS. THAT SUCH A SMALL COUNTRY AS ISRARL WAS EMBOLDENED TO UNDERTAKE SUCH AN ACTION THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY FROM HOME IS ATTRIBUTED TO (1) US SUPPORT FOR ISREAL AND (2) INCREASING YET SECRET ASSISTANCE RENDERED BY THE SOVIETS.
CROSS

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